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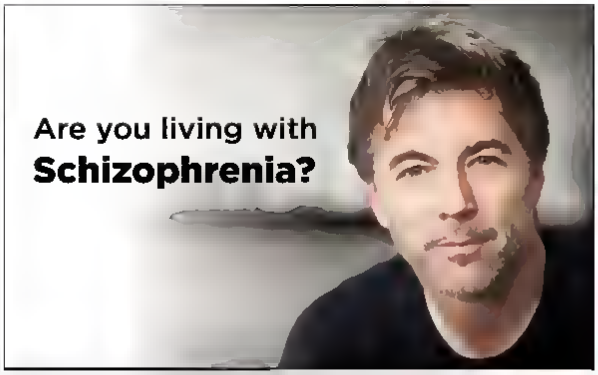

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TAYLOR HAMBY

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ORANGE FEATHERS »

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RED MEAT

clip-on hairball extensions

from the secret files of Max Cannon

Look, man...you can't live by the rules we made way back when we were in college
But we meant it. Dan
Look at that over there. If you ever see me holdin' some chick's purse for her, kill me.
You got it, my man. Great decide for me
Then you'll just have to go ahead and kill me. My wife comes out of five dressing rooms, and I'm not holding this purse. I'm dead anyway
You have to get in front of those things. Candy asked me to hold hers once. I gave it to a hobo. She never asked me again

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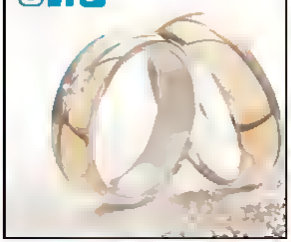

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ask a mexican!»

» GUSTAVO ARELLANO

DEAR MEXICAN: I'm an Arizonan of the anti-Senate Bill 1070 ilk who has just adopted a 5-year-old boy who is obviously (visuefly, anyway) of Mexican descent. I went to do right by my Arizonan son where his heritage is concerned, I have my own ideas about what that means, but I value your opinion. I'm enrolling him in a public elementary school that has a Spanish-language program (and hoping the state legislature doesn't kill such things), and have a passing knowledge of some of the pertinent literature (among other things, I once produced a radio reading of *Bless Me, Ultima* for the local station for the blind). I expect we are destined for difficulties from intrusive questions to downright racism in the future, so my immediate goal is to continue to grow my relationship with my son such that he has no doubts that his family loves him unconditionally. Beyond that, though, I'd be interested in your ideas about what a *gringo*-raised Mexican child ought to be exposed to in order to have a healthy sense of self and a reasonably sophisticated acculturation.

Expatriate Ohioan

DEAR *GABACHO*: This letter reminds me of *Discovering Dominga*, a wrenching 2003 documentary that appeared on PBS's *POV* series and dealt with a Guatemalan girl named Dominga who was adopted by an Iowa family after she survived the massacre of her village (and family) by the Guatemalan military during the 1980s. Her adopted parents renamed Dominga Denese and raised her to be a Midwestern girl, it worked mostly fine until Denese became an adult and began researching her past, which tore her new life apart even as it healed her inside. *Discovering Dominga*'s overarching question was whether full-scale assimilation was smart in the long run for everyone involved, and I agree. You're at least off to a good start: You're not negating your new *hijo*'s ethnicity, and you're going to stand against the haters. But the best advice I can give you is to let your son grow into his ethnicity. If he wants to identify only with his *gabacho* parents, that's okay; if he eventually wants to rename himself Xipe, that's okay as well. The important thing is to love him for who he is—and remind him to NEVER stay at a Motel 6 in Arizona or anywhere.

DEAR MEXICAN: At every family gathering, my Mexican family brings out a bottle of tequila to toast something. Indeed, my Mexican mother drank tequila until she was 77 years old. My question is: What is it about tequila that brings families together?

Herradura Blanco for Me, Por Favor

DEAR *GABACHO*: TEQUILA!

DEAR MEXICAN: Why do Mexican men always tuck in their T-shirts? Do they believe this will clean up their dusty, sweaty, overworked appearance?

The Mick

DEAR MICK. That, and also that any loose clothing at a blue collar job is an accident waiting to happen. Any workingman knows this, that you don't is further proof of the decline of the *gabacho* male in *los Estados*, and why we need more Mexicans to Make American Men Great Again.

ASK THE MEXICAN at themexican@askamexican.net, be his fan on Facebook, follow him on Twitter, or ask him a video question at youtube.com/askamexican!

HeyYou!

» ANONYMOUS

ARTIC Chill

You are the grumpy, secretive, uninformed employees working in the transportation center. Your job is to provide helpful information to customers trying to utilize civilized public transportation. Talking with two workers at the lots and two workers at the customer service counter gets you four different answers about long-term parking. Although there is a form available online that can be filled out and submitted, one can't be assured anyone got it. There's no email notification, and no one answers the phone or returns calls. If you print out the form, the folks behind the glass won't take it because even though the information is identical, the font is different. Don't you know your customers are the taxpayers footing the bill for the deficit the center is running?

ad a AUI

HEY, YOU! Send anonymous thanks, confessions or accusations—changing or deleting the names of the guilty and innocent—to "Hey, You!" c/o *OC Weekly*, 18475 Bandilier Circle, Fountain Valley CA 92708, or email us at letters@ocweekly.com.

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THE DATA BEHIND THE HEADLINES OF OC'S MOST CONTROVERSIAL POLICE SHOOTINGS

BY GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

When the two Anaheim police officers approached Manuel Diaz on a summer afternoon five years ago, he was leaning into a car, chatting with a couple of friends who were parked in an alleyway. Diaz fled on foot and turned the corner of an apartment complex on Anna Drive. He was quickly approaching the black, iron fence at the end of the yard—the only thing separating him from the street and police.

But before he reached the fence, he turned slightly, possibly to look over his shoulder. That's when Officer Nick Bennallack fired two shots at Diaz, a move he later said was necessary because he believed Diaz was armed and reaching for his waistband. As a dying Diaz twitched on the ground, police searched him for a weapon. They found only a cellphone and a pipe.

The July 21, 2012, slaying sparked outrage in Anaheim, leading to downtown riots and the largest police-brutality protest in OC history. But long before that day, officer-involved shootings drove bitter wedges between police departments and OC communities. In the summer of 1988, Westminster police officer Steven Phillips shot 18-year-old Frank Martinez to death during a neighborhood birthday party. Martinez's family filed a $110 million lawsuit, but a federal jury sided with Phillips and stuck the family with paying his $30,000 legal fees, plus $24 in punitive damages.

In 2001, Huntington Beach policeman Mark Wersching gunned down 18-year-old Antonio Saldivar, causing tensions to rise in the city's largely Latino Oak View neighborhood. (Wersching is still on the force, despite costing Surf City taxpayers more than $2 million in legal settlements for his brutality.) Five years later, dozens gathered outside Huntington Beach Police Department to protest the fatal police shooting of Ashley MacDonald, a distraught 18-year-old holding a penknife.

And then came Díaz.

But behind the headlines of OC's most controversial police shootings, there are many other encounters that fill slim news-column spaces with sparse details provided by authorities. Brought together, from the outrageous to the ignored, there's the story of police shootings themselves, one that hasn't been told in OC. How often do officer-involved shootings happen? Who's most likely to die by the gun in police encounters? Which department is OC's deadliest? How many unarmed people get shot? Are police ever prosecuted for on-duty shootings by the Orange County district attorney's office (OCDA)? (Spoiler: no!)

For this special report, we scoured hundreds of OCDA reports, newspaper articles, police records and death certificates for officer-involved shootings from 2006 to 2016. The task proved to be arduous, especially when we first picked up a data disc from the OCDA only to find it blank! But through our research, we identified and analyzed 173 police shootings during that time frame, 96 of which were fatal.

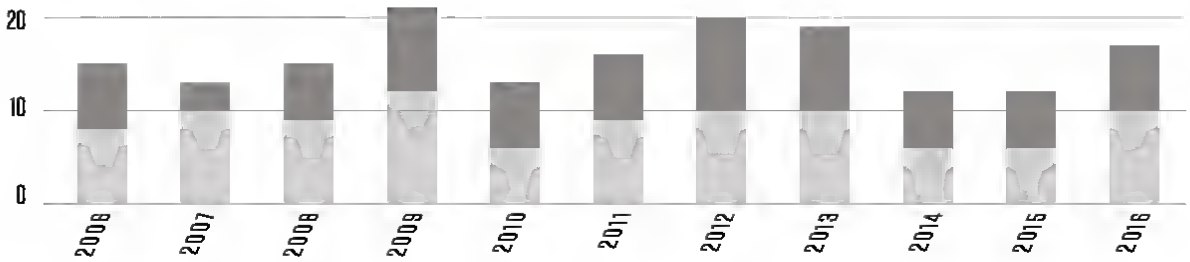
With data-filled graphics and even our best impression of Harper's Index, our findings here will surprise, challenge or confirm cynicisms whether folks fly the "Thin Blue Line" U.S. flag or chant "Black Lives Matter!" That's a bet as sure as Orange County District Attorney Tony Rackauckas and his crew finding the next police shooting justified.

GSANROMAN@OCWEEKLY.COM

SHOTS FIRED: 2006-2016

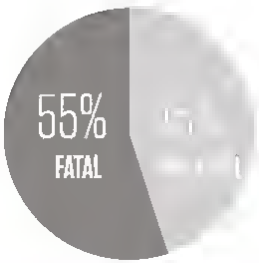
Includes on- and off-duty incidents

(Source: OCDA, police records)



2006-2016 Totals: 173 shootings, 96 fatal, 77 non-fatal

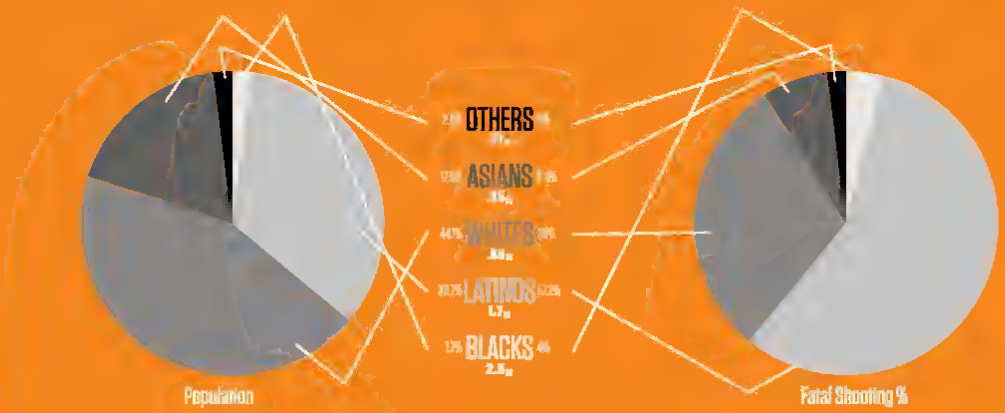
Since 2006, OC has averaged 15.7 officer-involved shootings per year



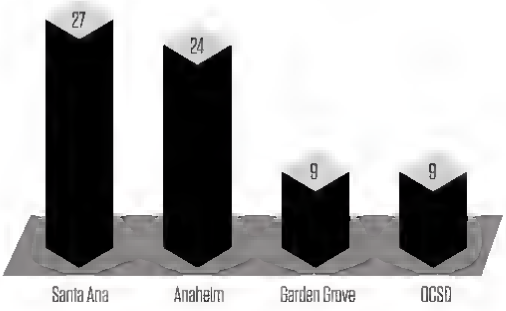
DEATH BY DEMOGRAPHICS: 2006-2016

(Sources: OC Healthcare Agency Death Certificates, 2010 Census)

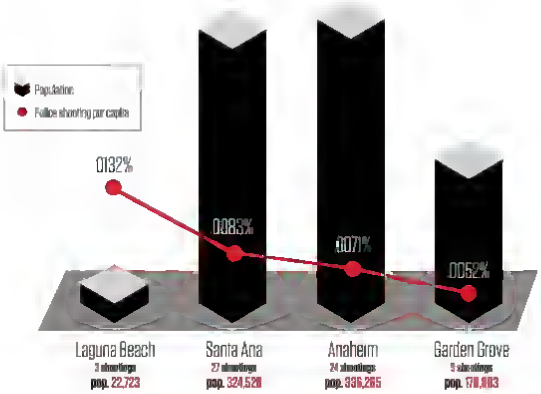
Blacks and Latinos are disproportionately killed by law enforcement in OC



DC'S DEADLIEST DEPARTMENTS



Total Fatal Incidents
(Source: OCDA, police records)



Deadliest Per Capita
Fatal police shootings by population size
(Source: OCDA, police records)

FUN FACT:

If Laguna Beach were the size of Anaheim, it'd have the equivalent of 44 shootings within the same 2006-'16 time period!

ARMED VS. UNARMED

In 96 reviewable cases of **fatal** police shootings, 36 involved unarmed persons. OCDA reports cross-referenced with media accounts didn't specify whether a person was armed or not in three cases, and two cases are still pending investigation at this time.

(Source: OCDA reports, newspaper articles)

WEAPONS OF CHOICE

In 173 records of police shootings, the *Weekly* found 88 definitive reports of persons armed with the following:

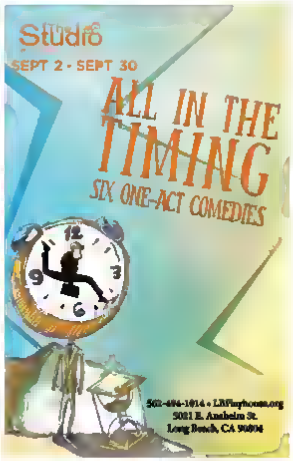
53 × guns
20 × knives
4 × imitation guns (BB/pellet/replicas)
1 × TASER
1 × potato peeler
1 × screwdriver
1 × sledgehammer
1 × tire iron
1 × metal hooks
5 × weapon not specified

(Source: DCDA reports, police records, newspaper articles)

WHAT'S IN A WAISTBAND?

In 28 police shootings reviewed by the *Weekly*, officers said they opened fire because the person made a "furtive" move toward his or her waistband or concealed his or her hands in pockets. In 20 cases, the person was unarmed when shot. (They either had nothing, cellphones or drug paraphernalia, or they tossed their guns before the shooting.)

In 6 separate cases, the person reached for the officer's waistband in an effort to gain control of his or her gun or Taser. (Source: DCDA reports, newspaper articles)



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FIVE MOST CONTROVERSIAL POLICE SHOOTINGS, 2006-2016

5. Ashley MacDonald (Aug. 26, 2006)
A distraught MacDonald ran out of her mom's apartment with a penknife in hand. She stopped at a nearby park. Huntington Beach officers Shawn Randell and Read Parker arrived and ordered MacDonald to drop the knife, but she lunged at them from a close enough distance with it to justify unloading 15 bullets into her. The DCDA declined to press charges, and Huntington Beach settled a lawsuit three years later for a measly $125,000.

4. Andres Ramirez (Dec. 10, 2010)
Santa Ana policeman Frank Gutierrez was patrolling an apartment complex with his partner when he spotted Ramirez standing in a carport, saw a partially concealed knife, and ordered the man to put his hands up. Ramirez crept backward instead, looking to his right and left. Shortly after, Gutierrez got out of his patrol car; he claimed Ramirez prepared to pivot around. That's when the cop shot him in the head. Gutierrez picked up the knife, but then dropped it after realizing his mistake. The DCDA declined to press charges three years after the incident, with Gutierrez giving his side of the story 20 months later. Santa Ana settled a wrongful death case for $1 million, with the family's attorney stating Ramirez was shot in the back of the head.

3. Jason Hallstrom (March 15, 2013)
Travis Mack drove Hallstrom around Santa Ana in a stolen Sentra when SWAT officers John Rodriguez and Pete Picone began following them. They believed the pair belonged to a white-supremacist gang and noticed how surprised they looked once the two saw police. After a short pursuit, Mack crashed the car, and both men fled on foot into a neighborhood. When Hallstrom moved his hands toward his waistband, Rodriguez opened fire, striking him once in the back and in the torso. Hallstrom, unarmed, died at a local hospital days later. Santa Ana paid a record $3.7 million to settle a suit filed after the shooting.

2. Julian Alexander (Oct. 27, 2008)
Anaheim officer Kevin Flanagan was chasing three juvenile burglary suspects when Alexander, an African American, exited his home amid the nighttime commotion, a broomstick in hand. Flanagan shone his flashlight at the 20-year-old newlywed father-to-be and ordered him to drop his stick. When Alexander raised it to his chest and moved toward Flanagan, the cop shot and killed him. John Welter, Anaheim's chief of police at the time, called the shooting a "tragedy" and described Alexander as "innocent," but nobody stood guilty for his death. Anaheim, usually stingy with police-shooting settlements, agreed to a $1.55 million payout.

1. Manuel Diaz (July 21, 2012)
Officer Nick Bennallack decided to approach Diaz, who was hanging out in an alley. Diaz ran through an apartment complex with Bennallack in pursuit. The officer claimed he saw Diaz take an object out of his waistband and begin to turn toward him. Bennallack shot Diaz in the head and buttocks around the same time an object flew into the air. But Diaz didn't have a weapon. The shooting angered residents; Anaheim PD pelted the growing crowd with less lethal projectiles. Both images fueled days of angry protests, culminating in the Anaheim Riots that summer. The revived civil trial is slated to begin next month.

FIVE POLICE SHOOTINGS NOBODY PROTESTED

5. Joseph de la Riva (March 6, 2016)
De la Riva walked into a Subway in Anaheim and took two teenage girls working behind the counter hostage at knifepoint. One of the workers discreetly called 911 before slipping her cellphone into her pants pocket. A dispatcher overheard de la Riva's distraught conversation with his uncle. When police arrived, de la Riva ignored commands to drop the knife. Instead, he held it up to the neck of one of his hostages. The other girl bit his arm, and in the ensuing struggle, Sergeant Daniel Gonzalez barged into the Subway and shot de la Riva without killing him or harming the hostages.

4. David Dinh (Dec. 28, 2010)
Fountain Valley officers responded to a call of a teen forcing his way into an apartment at gunpoint before leaving. When police arrived, 17-year-old Dinh greeted them with a semiautomatic rifle. He ignored commands to drop the weapon. Instead, Dinh singled out an officer from the group and started firing. Four officers returned fire until a downed Dinh dropped his weapon. Tried as an adult, an OC jury noted Dinh's bipolar disorder in sentencing him to 10 years in prison, but without any convictions for the attempted murder of police officers.

3. Myung Jae Kim (March 1, 2012)
Kim took a Buena Park bank manager hostage over a money dispute with a sawed-off shotgun, a knife and four pipe bombs. Buena Park SWAT officers responded, and the ensuing standoff lasted four hours. Despite all of Kim's weapons, police stormed the bank and shot him in the stomach without coming under attack themselves. In the trial that followed, Kim received a 24-year prison sentence for his multiple misdeeds.

2. John Frank Brantley Jr. (Nov. 1, 2014)
A Garden Grove couple awoke to the noise of Brantley trying to break into their home. He pleaded for protection from gang members attacking him. But it was all a lie. Once inside, Brantley threatened the couple in a home-invasion robbery. The husband loaded a shotgun with birdshot to protect his wife. Garden Grove police responded to her call for help. A struggle over the front door ensued. Brantley pulled a knife and put her in a chokehold. She managed to open the door when Brantley rushed over to the husband and stabbed him. Brantley and the husband struggled for control of the shotgun, and Brantley pointed the muzzle at officers. Corporal Timothy Kovacs shot and killed Brantley before he could pull the trigger.

1. Oscar Gallegos (Dec. 28, 2006)
The subject of a statewide manhunt, Gallegos shot and seriously wounded two Long Beach police officers during a traffic stop. Six days later, Long Beach detectives tailed a Camry driving Gallegos around Santa Ana before the car parked at a local strip mall. Gallegos and another man were walking back from getting tacos when they noticed Santa Ana police on the scene. Gallegos shot at police, who returned gunfire and killed him. (For the story behind the shootout, see Nick Schou's "Santa Ana Showdown," Jan. 19, 2007.)

POLICE SHOOTINGS MISCELLANY

Youngest person killed by police between 2006 and 2016 in Orange County: **14**

Oldest person killed by police in OC during that same decade: **70**

Number of women shot by police during that time period: **8**

Number of female officers named in police-involved shootings during that same time: **0**

Average number of paragraphs in 62 OCDA reports on police shootings prior to the agency's reformed disclosure policy in 2010: **8**

Amount Irvine settled a lawsuit for an officer's errant bullet that struck Marilyn Ellis in the back while chasing a bank robber: **$800,000**

Amount Anaheim settled a lawsuit for an officer's errant bullet that struck and wounded Norma Gomez during a freeway shootout that killed a suspect: **$300,000**

Officer-involved shootings on record in which a person is struck or killed by the police departments of Los Alamitos, Westminster Placentia and Seal Beach: **0**

Number of foreign-born people killed by law enforcement in OC between 2006 and 2016: **12**

Number of OCDA reports released in Spanish or any other language alongside English: **1**

Cases between 2006 and 2016 in which an officer accidentally shoots another officer in friendly fire: **1**

Number of incidents in which people shot at police during that same time frame: **15**

Number of times Travis Mock has been shot by police departments while unarmed between 2006 and 2016: **2**

Amount of total settlement money Mock was awarded by Anaheim and Santa Ana to dismiss his police-shooting lawsuits: **$250,000**

Number of police shootings that happened the year after the 2012 Anaheim Riots: **0**

Encounters in which police responded to people "acting erratically" or otherwise exhibiting symptoms of mental-health or addiction issues: **00**

Number of seconds Tustin policeman Osvaldo Vilkareal gave an unarmed Benny Herrera to obey his command to take his hands out of his pockets before opening fire and killing him: **1**

Span of months between Anaheim Police's Nick Bennallack's two fatal officer-involved shootings in 2012: **6**

OC cities with active civilian police-oversight boards: **0**

Years since black civil-rights group CORE asked Santa Ana to adopt a civilian police-oversight board: **53**

Number of officer-involved shootings in OC between 2006 and 2016: **173**

Number of police-shooting cases during that same time for which DA Tony Rackauckas brought charges against an on- or off-duty officer: **0**

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PUBLISHING OCTOBER 19TH

This issue will be your year-long guide to the best Orange County and Long Beach have to offer. The OC Weekly team has scoured the area for those businesses that deserve your attention! Make sure to vote for over 100 Best Of categories. Winners will be revealed in our October 19th issue!

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WHY THE GRAVE FACE?

COURTESY OF KNOTT'S SCARY FARM

fri/09/22

[CONCERT]

Beyond Love

Beach House

The sound and atmosphere of Beach House's music remains unmatched by anyone else in the indie-rock scene today, partly thanks to the magnificent combination of singer Victoria Legrand's eerie, deep vocals and minimal dream-pop instrumentation. Legrand and fellow member Alex Scally have punched up these elements to the best of their potential, crafting album after album of cosmic beauty. With their slow beats and Legrand's balladic voice, Beach House have created an intimate listening experience from which we can draw out softness and warmth for our own comfort. Having reached strong critical and commercial acclaim, expect an epic turnout of devotees seeking spiritual shelter at tonight's Observatory concert.

Beach House at the Observatory, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana, (714) 957-0600; www.observatoryoc.com. 8 p.m. $35. —AIMEE MURILLO

MORE » ONLINE
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[ATTRACTIONS]

THE FRIGHT STUFF

Knott's Scary Farm

Elvira's final tour! That's all you really need to know about this year's Scary Farm because nothing under the blood-red moon compares to the Mistress of the Dark. Knott's also offers up a slaughterhouse of gruesome mazes—including the Red Barn, Voodoo and the Hollow—plus, the entire CamEVIL clown posse are combing the dreary streets in search of foolish mortals. The regular rides are done up with a spooky touch, although the inbred tobacco spitters in the Log Ride mountain didn't need much help, and the Jaguar roller coaster really could kill you any time of the year (it's mathematically impossible that it remains on the rails). So, leave the edulating at home and get your shneks and freaks on at Knott's Scary Farm—it's the treat you've been waiting for all year long.

Knott's Scary Farm at Knott's Berry Farm, 8039 Beach Blvd., Buena Park, (714) 220-5200; www.knotts.com. 7 p.m. Through Oct. 31. $40-$140. —SR DAVIES

sat/09/23

[ART]

These Women's Work

'Looming Spaces'

Huntington Beach Art Center's "Looming Spaces" exhibit closes out a year of showcasing women in the arts. Here, contemporary artists Ashley Blalock, Consuelo Jimenez Underwood, Dawn Ertl and Annette Heully construct beautiful, poignant pieces out of fiber materials to draw attention toward specific cultural and environmental issues. This genre—traditionally including yarn, fabric, or natural and synthetic fibers—has been typically seen as feminine-centric because of its connections with the domestic sphere. But now, women artists have subtly subverted it from an arts-and-crafts medium to a venerated contemporary art form. Check out this fantastic new show at its official public reception tonight.

"Looming Spaces" at Huntington Beach Art Center, 538 Main St., Huntington Beach, (714) 374-1650; www.huntingtonbeachartcenter.org. 6:30 p.m. Exhibit runs through Oct. 21. Free. —AIMEE MURILLO

[CONCERT]

MS. UNBREAKABLE

Janet Jackson

If you missed out on seeing Janet Jackson the last time she was in town, then shame on you. But if you had tickets to see Ms. Jackson's Unbreakable tour before it was canceled so she could focus on starting a family, then you're getting another chance to see one of the most electrifying performers of all time. Expect the Grammy-winning, Emmy-winning, Golden Globe-winning legend to bring a world-class performance to the Honda Center this weekend. You might not be able to see her any time, any place anymore, but this show will be all for you.

MORE » ONLINE
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Janet Jackson at the Honda Center, 2695 E. Katella Ave., Anaheim, (714) 704-2500; www.hondacenter.com. 8 p.m. $20-$125.50. —JOSH CHESLER

sun/09/24

[PETS]

Hot Dog!

Pet Parade & Chili Cook-Off

Love animals? Love chili? Tivoli Too will host the 21st Annual Pet Parade & Chili Cook-Off to benefit a bevy of charitable organizations, including Laguna Beach Animal Shelter, Blue Bell Foundation for Cats, Pet Rescue Center, Pacific Marine Mammal Center, PUP (Protecting Unwanted Pets), as well as the Laguna Board of REALTORS Charitable Assistance Fund. The annual parade will include competitions for Most Handsome Male, Prettiest Female, Cutest Baby Pet, Best Costume, Most Gorgeous Senior Pet and Happiest Pet Rescue. Naturally, there will also be a competition for Best Chili of the Year, so bring the kids, bring your appetites, and bring your hearts and save a pup in need.

21st Annual Pet Parade & Chili Cook-Off at Tivoli Too, 777 Laguna Canyon Rd., Laguna Beach, (949) 230-3353; www.lbr-caf.info. 11 a.m. $5, children younger than 16, free. —SCOTT FEINBLATT

[COMEDY]

Wayne's World

Wayne Brady

Dave Chappelle's iconic "It's Wayne Brady" sketch will never get old, partly because of the absurdity of one of the nicest comedians out there having a ruthless double personality. The comic/singer/TV personality was recently part of the *Hamilton* cast in Chicago playing Aaron Burr, putting his previous experience in theater to use. So it will be interesting to catch up with Brady as he gets back on the standup circuit. If there's anything we've learned from Brady thus far in his career, it's that he'll never stop surprising us.

Wayne Brady at Irvine Improv, 527 Spectrum Center Dr., Irvine, (949) 854-5455, irvine improv com. 7 p.m. $30 —AIMEE MURILLO

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mon/09/25

[ART]

Frida People

'The Dream Is the Truth'

What better way to interrupt our current political nightmare—with attacks on science, immigrant "others" and the dream of a just democracy—than a public art show inspired by revolutionary Mexican painter Frida Kahlo? Her famous manifesto claiming to paint not the surreal, but her own reality finds expression in multiform pieces curated by Buena Park's Community Affairs Fine Arts Division (who knew?). Via drawing, painting, collaging, photographing and assembling, 16 interpreters of dream and reality offer perhaps a more honest assessment of the truth, in rich colors, clever constructions and vivid imaginings, each a tribute to Frida.

"The Dream Is the Truth: Art Inspired by Frida Kahlo" at Buena Park City Hall Council Chamber, 6650 Beach Blvd., Buena Park, (714) 562-3868, www.buenapark.com. Call before visiting. Through Nov. 2. Free. —ANDREW TONKOVICH

tue/09/26

[CONCERT]

Shape Shifter

Perfume Genius

Mike Hadreas is Perfume Genius, and on his fourth full-length, *No Shape*, he takes everything good about 2014's *Too Bright* and makes it even brighter-higher highs, slower slows, earthshaking dynamic shifts and personality that's hot to the touch. Lots of people are bringing up Kate Bush, but that's actually right—for the sound in some ways, yes, but absolutely for the kind of ecstatic ambition on display here. Hadreas is fully committed on *No Shape*, glowing with inspiration and chasing each idea all the way to the horizon. It's pop in the grand and powerful tradition, but intensely personal and political as well—and the future *No Shape* suggests for Perfume Genius seems positively interstellar.

Perfume Genius with Krisin Kontrol at the Glass House, 200 W. Second St., Pomona, (909) 865-3802, www.theglasshouse.us. 9 p.m. $21-$23 —CHRIS ZIEGLER

wed/09/27

[ART]

Going Solo

'Jillian Evelyn: Solitary'

There's never a shortage of color in Jillian Evelyn's art. Updating the classical genre of nude figures, Evelyn's paintings portray women sitting alone in their personal spaces, with facial expressions of angst and disconnection. Hard lines, angles, shapes and curves bring an energy to each body, even as they sit still in awkward positions, lost in thought, while jazzy color schemes contrast and play with one another. This show at Artists Republic Gallery displays more of this motif, with modernist and low-brow sensibilities shining through. Explore Evelyn's works of colorful bods, of which Picasso himself would probably approve.

"Jillian Evelyn: Solitary" at Artists Republic Gallery, 400 W. Disney Way, Anaheim, (949) 988-0603, artists-republic.com. Noon. Through Oct. 1. Free.

—AIMEE MURILLO

[THEATER]

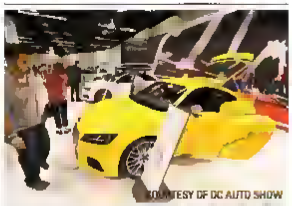
THIS JOINT IS JUMPIN'

Ain't Misbehavin'

One of the most culturally invigorating artistic movements in history was the Harlem Renaissance, which uplifted the works of African-American poets, painters, musicians and singers in the late 1920s and '30s. One of these prominent musicians was Thomas "Fats" Waller, a successful singer, pianist and composer of many popular jazz songs of the era. Join the spirited singers performing many of Waller's popular hits—including the iconic "Ain't Misbehavin'," "Honeysuckle Rose" and "Black and Blue"—in an energetic and lively musical revue. This Tony-winning smash is a wonderful tribute to the glory days of the Cotton Club and the Savoy, as well as the influential personalities that kept its flame burnin'.

Ain't Misbehavin' at La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts, 14900 La Mirada Blvd., La Mirada, (714) 994-6310; lamiradatheatre.com. 7:30 p.m. Through Oct. 8. $14-$70. —AIMEE MURILLO

thu/09/28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[SHOWS]

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Looking to buy a new set of wheels? Or are you an auto enthusiast who likes to keep abreast of the latest offerings from international auto manufacturers without the pain of dealing with pushy sales people? Then the OC International Auto show is for you! The floor will feature foreign, domestic and exotic makes, as well as a dedicated work truck and van show. Food trucks will be there in case you decide to make it an all-day affair, and kid-friendly programming such as kid test drives, photo booths and video games make the show fun for the entire family. Licensed, adult car-lovers can get in the driver's seat and test drive more than 100 different vehicles—your dream car might be waiting for you!

OC Auto Show at Anaheim Convention Center, 800 W. Katella Ave., Anaheim, (714) 765-8950, autoshowoc.com. 4 p.m.; also Sept. 29-Oct. 1. $10-$11.

—HEATHER MCCOY

[DANCE]

Modern Queen

Anaïs, A Dance Opera

Provocative literary figure Anaïs Nin is the subject of Cindy Shapiro's innovative dance opera, which combines rock music, dance and visual projections. Nin, who provided a very frank look into sex, affairs and artistic passion in her writing, became a literary icon among contemporaries in Paris during the 1930s, although after her death, her personal life drew revulsion and criticism. Shapiro and director/choreographer Janet Roston celebrate the life of the author, bringing the café society of Paris to the 21st century with Shapiro's lyrics, contemporary and classical dance movements, and stunning visual imagery. As extraordinary as its subject matter, *Anaïs* is not to be missed!

Anaïs, A Dance Opera at Musco Center for the Performing Arts, Chapman University, 1 University Dr., Orange; www.anaisdanceopera.com. 7:30 p.m. $50.

—AIMEE MURILLO

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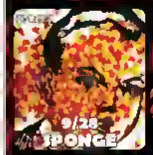
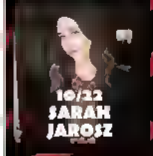

9/28 SPONGE

9/30 CITIZEN COPE

10/7 YOUNG DUBLINERS

10/12 TIM REYNOLDS & TR3

10/21 Martha Davis & THE MOTELS


10/22 SARAH JAROSZ

8/21	POCO feat. Rusty Young
8/22	OSB (Journey Tribute)
8/23	PAT BOONE
8/24	OC HOUSEWIVES
9/28	SPONGE - Performing "Rotting Piñata"
8/29	COMEDY NIGHT
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10/6	JUMPING JACK FLASH
10/7	YOUNG DUBLINERS
10/8	RIK EMMETT of Triumph Acoustic
10/11	KALAPANA
10/12	TIM REYNOLDS & TR3
10/13	THE DRIFTERS
10/14	WHICH ONE'S PINK?
10/20	RICHIE FURAY
10/21	MARTHA DAVIS & THE MOTELS
10/22	SARAH JAROSZ
10/25	STEPHEN STILLS & JUDY COLLINS
10/26	STEPHEN STILLS & JUDY COLLINS
10/27	AMERICA
10/28	AMERICA
10/29	DINGO BOINGO HALLOWEEN DANCE PARTY
11/3	PETTY vs EAGLES
11/4	SINBAD
11/5	SECONDHAND SERENADE
11/11	ROBERT CRAY
11/12	CINDERELLA'S TOM KEIFER
11/15	BRAND X
11/17	PETULA CLARK
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11/24	EVERLY BROTHERS EXPERIENCE
11/25	CASH'D OUT (Johnny Cash Tribute)
11/30	TIMOTHY B. SCHMIT
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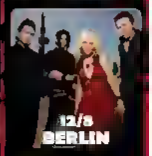
12/3	VONDA SHEPARD

11/4 SINBAD

11/12 CINDERELLA'S TOM KEIFER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12/30	SUPER DIAMOND (Neil Diamond Tribute)	2/28	TINSLEY ELLIS
12/31	DONAVON FRANKENREITER	3/8	GARY PUCKETT & THE UNION GAP
1/12	TOMMY CASTRO	4/5	ULI JON ROTH (3 hour show)
1/13	DESPERADO	4/21	Y&T
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Ramen Love With You

Discover the greatness of Huntington Ramen beneath its generic name

BY EDWIN GOEI

BRIAN FEINZIMER

This story begins not at Huntington Ramen, but at a new restaurant I was originally planning to review for this issue. It looked promising at first: The place had a catchy name, well-curated social-media accounts, an eclectic menu and a bar with creatively named drinks. But then the food arrived. There was a weird noodle salad that tasted as if it started with barely cooked Top Ramen and egg rolls so salty they made my head hurt. Things took a turn for the worst after that. When I told our server the wings we ordered were still raw in the middle, she didn't apologize or offer to take it back. Instead, she insisted they were fine and safe to eat. After I paid the bill in a huff, my still-hungry mates and I hightailed it out of there, shaking our heads all the way out the door.

As it will fail without any help from me, I won't name that restaurant. Instead, I'm grateful for its existence because if it hadn't been for that extraordinarily awful experience, I wouldn't have ended up down the street at Huntington Ramen.

Despite the generic name and unimpressive strip-mall exterior, Huntington Ramen was a truly special place. We saw servers wearing traditional Japanese hakamas and tables partitioned into private booths while plucky shamisen music permeated the air. As I slurped the house tonkotsu ramen, I saw other customers tucking into California rolls and nibbling on edamame. There were families of all types, twentysomethings on dates, *gabachos*, Asians, Mexicans, Huntington Beach cops, even a hippie couple who clapped excitedly when the waitress informed them the restaurant does, in fact, have a vegetarian ramen.

It catered to everyone, with a menu that will seem very basic. The laminated sheet—the size of a placemat—has pictures for nearly everything. There are seven ramens, a handful of rolls, and a roster of small plates and appetizers. But its focus on the ordinary belies food made with meticulous care. The tonkotsu features crinkly al dente noodles that are a pleasure to chew and a thick, long-simmered pork broth that tastes like the concentrate of a thousand hogs. And if you're still peckish after that, a cha-shu rice bowl topped with chopped pork belly is, in my opinion, way too good for its $4.75 price tag. And the perfectly seasoned sushi rice in the spicy tuna bowl makes you realize those poke joints are phoning it in when they use regular rice. Also, the karaage here—sake-marinated chicken thighs lightly battered and fried—is the best I've had anywhere. It arrives roiling hot and juicy, served in pieces too big for your mouth—but you'll try to stuff 'em in, anyway.

Beyond those gateway dishes, there are treasures that indicate Huntington Ramen isn't just a ramen joint or even a sushi bar; it's a full-fledged Japanese restaurant that isn't afraid to offer traditional foods such as natto. One of the best is the chilled silken tofu. Served on a wicker basket nestled on a big bowl of ice, you eat it alternating between dipping the wiggly cold curds in a dashi-based sauce and dabbing them with grated ginger—a dish as simple as it is thrilling.

I've now been to Huntington Ramen more than a few times, and each visit has left me even more enamored with it. One afternoon, after I ordered the salmon-skin salad, I smelled its roasted aromas filling the entire dining room. Shortly thereafter, the salad came in a bigger bowl than I anticipated, with plenty of the crispy flecks of skin acting as fishy croutons. A week later, I discovered the sushi chef offered unabata, two pieces of nigiri sushi topped with broiled unagi and a sliver of cold butter tucked between its belt of seaweed. It's a very popular dish in Osaka, the menu said, and for good reason. And I've now settled on my favorite form of ramen here: the tsukemen, which comes with the chilled ramen noodles in one bowl, the reduced-pork soup as dipping sauce in another.

But most of all it's the service that has endeared me to the place. They've spot shared bowls of ramen without me having to ask. They serve complimentary ice cream to everyone for dessert. And one night, after realizing he'd charged a higher price than advertised for the grilled salmon collar on special, the manager came over and apologized. I told him I hadn't even noticed, but I thanked him for his honesty. It was about then I realized that, unlike that other restaurant, if I ever find anything was less than adequate here, the staff at Huntington Ramen would jump to correct it because, well … that's how you're supposed to run a restaurant.

HUNTINGTON RAMEN

7391 Warner Ave., Huntington Beach, (714) 715-3631, huntingtonramen.com. Open Mon.-Sat., 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. & 5-11 p.m., Sun., 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. & 5-10 p.m. Closed the first Monday of the month. Meal for two, $15-$40, food only. Beer and sake.

HOLE IN THE WALL

» GUSTAVO ARELLANO

Fast Middle Eastern

OLIVES BRANCH EXPRESS
5365-K Alton Pkwy., Irvine, (949) 373-5633

I worried when the Olives Branch in San Juan Capistrano announced it was opening a fast-casual spot in Irvine. The Lebanese restaurant offers the best Middle Eastern food in South County because it doesn't dumb down the menu for anyone. Instead, it doubles down on the regionalism. It's the only spot in OC I know to highlight sojouk and ma'anek (Armenian and Lebanese sausages) as a side. But now it wanted to open a junior location in a city more accustomed to Persian and Indian food?

As I walked in, I thought my fears were confirmed. It resembled too many "concept" restaurants nowadays that try to be the Chipotle of their cuisine: choose a dish (pita, platter or something called the pita-tada—more on that in a bit), a protein, toppings, a spread and a sauce. All that was missing was an option to make everything a bowl. But Olives Branch's roots peeked through. The Tripoli Wrap promised kafta kebabs, an Aley Plate named after the Lebanese city, contained fasolia, delicious red beans stewed so they taste like a great vegetarian chili. I ordered the spicy lebne, just to see how bland (but still good—lebne is never bad) it would be, but I was soon ecstatic to find myself sipping extra-hard on Olives Branch Express' fabulous mint lemonade because of the lebne's slight fire.

But I was sold forever on this place after ordering the pita-tada. I couldn't decipher it at first, figuring that "tada" was Arabic for something yummy. I still didn't get the clue when the owner told the customer who followed me that the dish featured a fried pita topped with stuff. But when the owner delivered the finished product to me, I finally figured it out: "pita-tada" was a portmanteau of pita and tostada—a Lebanese tostada? I expected a by-committee meal created just to get Instagram likes, and then I ate it: luscious chicken shawarma, tart pickles and a light touch atop a pita transformed into a dense, crunchy, earthy delight. Throw away your taco salads, and indulge in the greatest alliance of Mexican and Middle Eastern food since al pastor.

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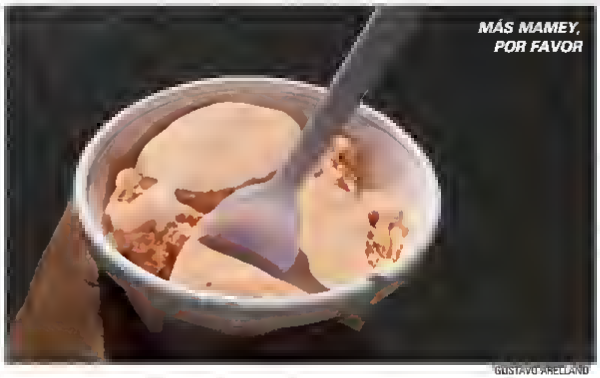


GUSTAVO ARELLANO

Good In the Hood

Mamey ice cream at La Flor de Michoacán

Sometime next month, I'm going to appear on *What's Good In Your Hood*, a food show produced by Mitú, the Latino Buzzfeed. The people there approached me to talk about what people usually approach me to talk about: food, gentrification and SanTana. But I was pleasantly surprised at their choice for the setting: La Flor de Michoacán, my favorite ice cream shop in *la naranja*.

Mitú found out about the place *gracias* to my 2013 review, and I got to meet the owners, who said my review has brought in business ever since—BOOM. I'm not going to give any spoilers here, but I will reveal my *nieve* of choice: mamey, the most underrated fruit not named soursop. You only see it prepared two ways in Southern California: as a drink (agua fresca or *licuado*—smoothie) or as ice cream. La Flor de Michoacán offers both, but it's best as ice cream: sweet like custard, pink like a Hello Kitty character, all *muy muy*. Check me out on *What's Good In Your Hood*, then hit up La Flor, fam.

LA FLOR DE MICHOACAN
1750 S. Main St., Santa Ana, (714) 664-0701

EatThisNow

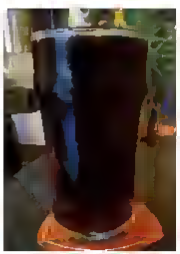
» GUSTAVO ARELLANO

DrinkoftheWeek

» ROBERT FLORES

Hidden Hollow Kentucky Common at Ten Mile Brewing

Saddle up your Lyft ride and mosey on down to the newest brewery in the LBC—Signal Hill represent! The father-son team of Dan and Jesse Sundstrom welcome you to Ten Mile Brewing, a truly family affair, with even the *cuñado* pitching in by finding the building for the Sundstroms to set up shop. It's named after the creek in the Sierra Nevadas where the family has owned a cabin for five generations, and that rustic feel is evident in the tasting-room décor and spacious tables. The Sundstroms have home brewed for a decade, winning a slew of awards in the process. And their skillz are on full display here, especially with the Hidden Hollow Kentucky Common (5.2 percent ABV), a rarely seen style of beer.



ROBERT FLORES

THE DRINK

It was the Tecate of the frontier, a working-man's beer that dates back to the 1850s but fell out of favor. The Sundstroms researched the ingredients, and their take is a tasty, melt-strong beer similar to a California Common, but much darker. It's the perfect beer to wet your whistle before you dive into an IPA or Pale Ale. Bring your huckleberry and your drinking pants when you visit. And Sundstroms: Cue up the Bluegrass Boys!

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Brewing Progress

Craft Beer LB Fest is a coming-out party for the city's brewing scene

SARAH BENNETT

LONG BEACH LUNCH
» SARAH BENNETT

Dennis Trilles and his wife started drinking craft beer seven years ago at downtown bars such as Congregation Ale House. The Long Beach couple soon started wandering outside the city, which at the time had several award-winning brewpubs but not much of a beer scene, turning their excursions into beercations, picking cities with rich beer scenes.

In 2015, Trilles learned the city of Long Beach was loosening regulations on new microbreweries, so he decided to track the progress with a website and affiliated social-media accounts as a hobby. "Hearing that it was going to soon be possible to visit multiple breweries across the city got me really excited," says Trilles, the founder of the blog and Meetup group Craft Beer Long Beach. "We're still not San Diego or anything that big, but it's a start."

The policy change helped to increase the number of beer makers in the area from three to about 10, all of which (and then some) will be pouring at the first Craft Beer LB Fest, being held this weekend at Rancho Los Cerritos. In addition to Beachwood BBQ & Brewing—consistently ranked among the best brewpubs in the world—the festival will welcome local stalwarts Timeless Pints (technically located just inside the Lakewood border), Ballast Point in the Marina and the brew-your-own bar in Bixby Knolls, Dutch's Brewhouse, as well as two new breweries, both of which opened their doors this summer: Loog Beach Beer Lab and Signal Hill's Ten Mile Brewing.

Many of these new-wave breweries are located near Bixby Knolls, a business-friendly enclave that is allowing storefronts on its main drag to become breweries. Some have even begun calling the neighborhood Brewery Knolls.

Dutch's Brewhouse, which operated as a low-key beer bar and restaurant for the past year, is now using a small brew-your-own system to make its own beers, Liberation Brewing Company (LBC!), started by Dan Regan from the ska band Reel Big Fish, is going in down the street from Dutch's, and longtime homebrewers Ambitious Ales just purchased the former Tuttle Camera building on Atlantic Avenue near Carson Street.

On Anaheim Street near Long Beach Boulevard, Trademark Brewing and Hog Canyon Brewing are both moving through the city's permit process. Though their systems are not up and running yet, Hog Canyon and Liberation will be contract brewing beers so they can participate in this weekend's festival. "The one thing I love is that the camaraderie between new breweries is awesome—they're like family," Trilles says.

The fest marks the first time the 12 Long Beach-area breweries will come together in one place, with a lineup that also includes affiliates Congregation Ales (the brewery is at the bar's Azusa location) and Smog City Brewing, which has its first satellite tasting room at Steelcraft in Bixby Knolls. Think of it as a large-scale version of Trilles' Meetup group, which started by accident last year.

Trilles had decided to reserve the Craft Beer Long Beach Meetup name in case he ever wanted to use it alongside his other properties, but the notice accidentally went public, and within days, more than 100 people were interested in attending some kind of event. He works hard to make each Meetup not just a drunken gathering of craft beer fans, but an educational experience, coordinating with bars and breweries to have representatives guide the group through a tasting at which people can try something new, ask questions and learn a bit about the process.

The Craft Beer LB Fest will also be an intimate affair, with its capacity limited to 500 people. Attendees can taste local beer and get to know the growing number of local brewers. "I can't wait for Long Beach to be the next beer destination," Trilles says, "the kind of place my wife and I would go to when we were first exploring beer."

CRAFT BEER LB FEST
at Rancho Los Cerritos, 4600 Virginia Rd., Long Beach, craftbeerlbfest.com. Sat., 1-5 p.m. $20 for 10 tastes.

From 9/11 to 9-1-1

Loose Change filmmaker tackles police brutality in *Black and Blue*

BY MATT COKER

COURTESY DYLAN AVERY

Dylan Avery had a film-editing gig a few years ago that put the Long Beach resident on the road every day to Malibu. Listening to the news on the car radio during his morning and evening commutes, Avery kept tabs on the Kelly Thomas case, which centered on the fatal police beating of a homeless man in Fullerton in July 2011. "Like a lot of other people," Avery recalls, "I assumed the cops would be found guilty."

That notoriously did not happen. But the outrage Avery shared with thousands and thousands of Southern Californians caused him to pick up a camera and start shooting footage and interviews at protests over Thomas' murder. The filmmaker was not yet sure what he would do with what he was collecting—and then the story got much more personal.

He was walking his dog near his apartment when a sheriff's patrol car pulled up. A deputy confronted him, and before he knew it, he was sitting in the back of a Los Angeles Sheriff's Department vehicle. Avery had told a deputy who demanded identification that he had not grabbed his wallet because he was only taking his dog for a walk, but that they could all go get it together at his home nearby. He was instead stuffed into the back of a cop car.

As Avery's story was being checked out, he looked out the window to see a deputy approaching his dog, who was tied up and just as scared and bewildered as its master. "I was legitimately terrified for myself and my dog," Avery says. "God forbid if something had happened."

The deputies had responded to a call about a student who had apparently made threats to his school. Avery came under suspicion because in addition to a dog leash, he carried a camera near the same campus. He explained to the authorities that he shot nothing of the school but instead the nearby freeway, offering to show deputies the images on his camera.

Avery ultimately received an apology and instructions to carry ID with him in the future. But the Kelly Thomas case combined with Avery's own experience and stories about police brutality all across the country he was by then reading on Facebook provided the context for what would become *Black and Blue*, his new documentary being presented at the Catalina Film Festival, which opens Wednesday.

By the way, just about anyone with an internet connection already knows of Avery's work. He wrote, produced and directed the controversial series of films known as *Loose Change*, which challenges the official accounts of what happened in the 9/11 terrorist attacks and implies it was actually a false flag operation. *Loose Change* first appeared online in 2005, was revised and recut multiple times in the years that followed, and ultimately got a Netflix run.

Avery, who famously broke from some of the conspiracy theorists who originally helped to make *Loose Change* an online phenomenon, says he has matured as a filmmaker and social-justice reporter with *Black and Blue*. While shooting a Kelly Thomas protest, he struck up a conversation with a fellow sitting on a bench who asked if Avery had heard of the Bobby Henning shooting. The 22-year-old was shot and killed by a sheriff's deputy in Paramount in 2012. "The cops definitely murdered that kid, I was there," said the man on the bench. "And the anniversary is coming up."

That sent Avery and his camera to Paramount, to capture another rally and meet Henning's parents. The following day, it was off to Downey, where unarmed, father-of-four Michael Nida had been shot to death by a police officer as he and his wife were getting gas before driving on to dinner.

"It just snowballed from there," Avery says of the cases that kept coming at him, "and it's not just limited to Los Angeles." He mentioned New York, Massachusetts and other places that served as settings in *Black and Blue*, which explores not only officer-involved killings, but also brutal beatings. In the midst of Avery's travels and filming, Ferguson, Missouri, blew up.

Asked whether he was the witness to a disturbing trend or business as usual that we all now see thanks to cellphones, Avery answers, "That was definitely one of my questions" posed in *Black and Blue*. "There are more ways to get news out sooner. You do not just send tape to NBC, hope they look at it, hope they air it and hope someone watches it. How many videos have we seen live *on* Facebook right after a loved one was killed? They are right on the scene and instantly broadcasting to millions."

Avery believes a macro view of what's happening nationwide exposes "systemic oppression" by police that "has always been around. ... But I also think the military took over this country 10 to 15 years ago," he says. "It helped shape that culture. A good percentage of police shootings are by ex-military. They are trigger-happy—not to paint veterans in broad strokes."

Law enforcement, Avery contends, provides "a replacement of the sense of purpose" many had felt while serving the country. They find willing employers, he adds, because these days, "police depend on more desperate hiring policies" to overcome the stigma of being a cop.

Despite this sad state of affairs, Avery remains hopeful, thanks to a reduction in police-involved incidents since the "big swell" of 2015-16 and the "small little steps" toward reform taking hold across the country. "It is really interesting to see how this went from a small issue to now a much bigger issue," Avery says of the transformation captured in *Black and Blue*. "The public is interested. I think change is on the way, although it will not happen immediately. That is the only downside to expect."

MCOKER@OCWEEKLY.COM

BLACK AND BLUE

was directed by Dylan Avery. Screens at Overlook Hall, 209 E. Whittley Ave., Avalon. Sept. 29, 12:30 p.m. $10 (cinema pass grants access to all films showing that day for the festival). For more info about the Catalina Film Festival, www.catalinafilm.org. Sept. 27-Oct. 1.

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Too *Caliente* to Handle

OC won't accept *Real Women Have Curves* because it shows Latinas as humans

BY JOEL BEERS

Anyone with a slight sense of familiarity with this infernal rag (or with the letters printed in the *Orange County Register*) is aware of Orange County's sterling track record toward brown people, particularly immigrants. From schools and buildings named after KKK members to 1994's Proposition 187 to our lovable skinheads, GOP and other jerk-offs, OC has served—and continues to serve—as a petri dish where tolerance blossoms.

So it's no wonder that at least one actress involved in the Costa Mesa Playhouse's staging of *Real Women Have Curves*, a 1990 play featuring five Latinas set in an East Los Angeles factory, reported on Facebook after the first weekend that she felt "disappointed" and "a bit defeated" about the lack of local support. While Angela Moore's evidence cited nothing more than one patron's clueless comment, a reviewer calling Josefina López's play "a soapbox" and few audience members sticking around after the show to talk to the cast, the admittedly subjective dismay of a Los Angeles-based actress performing in Orange County shouldn't be dismissed at all.

Because while López has used her art to rally around issues from media representation to gentrification, this particular play is anything but a defiant rallying cry against a bigoted power structure or a call for *raza* solidarity and to raise *desmadre* (y'all got *OC Weekly* for that!). While it does challenge and prod and address the Big Issue of Immigration, its most revolutionary and truly provocative feature is its attempt to humanize the real people who live, work, struggle and succeed in the crosshairs of what is all too often reduced to ugly, polarizing, politicized shouting.

There is no politicking or posturing in López's play, which is set in 1987 and is based on the playwright's experience growing up undocumented in East Los Angeles and working briefly at a garment factory. She is represented by Ana (played by Aurora Hale last weekend and Anatalia Vallez otherwise), a recent high-school graduate and aspiring writer who yearns for a life free from the drudgery of sewing in her older sister Estela's (Tiffany McQuay) tiny shop. Like two other employees, Pancha (Jessica Delgado) and Rosah (Angela Apodaca), Ana has recently obtained her green card, but every time a white van cruises near the shop, the women are conditioned to duck and hide out of fear of *la migra*.

The only one who really has to fear is her mother, Carmen (Moore), who has yet to fill out the paperwork. But while justifiably paranoid of being deported, Carmen's chief concern is meeting the feverish production schedule for dresses that need to be finished in five days so Estela can pay her employees, fend off defaulting on her credit-card debt for her machines and avoid being dragged into court.

MICHAEL SERNA

While the fear of deportation is never too far from the surface, López's story is really a simple (too simple, at times) tale of women dealing with all-too-human issues: having and raising children, dealing with husbands and boyfriends, toiling as common laborers in an economic system in which they are paid $60 to produce dresses sold for $300 at a department store. And, of course, their bodies. This is a story about women, but they are anything but glamorous (in the traditional cishet advertising sense) women, and a great deal of their talk centers on their figures. It's not until Ana—the youngest, but also the most book smart and woke of the quintet—convinces the others that rather than being ashamed of their bodies, they need to embrace them (kind of a free-the-body-and-the-mind-will-follow thing) that the play's main point manifests. Women can be strong individually, but together, they can move metaphorical mountains.

Director Sara Guerrero has assembled a quick-witted, talented cast, and Ryan Linhardt's detailed set skillfully emulates the cramped conditions these women work amid. It's a funny and fast-moving play that, while not possessing much dramatic urgency, feels like real people who don't seem to be "doing" much—except persevering and building toward a better future. And that is what Ana—and the audience—learns. While she feels the need to educate and empower her co-workers, Ana winds up realizing that they have taught her far more: the value of doing the work with pride, regardless of how insignificant it may feel.

Though it is never explicitly stated in the play, that realization underscores the major irony of those who demonize immigrants as lazy leeches sucking off the hard-earned tax dollars of real Americans, that so many of these people, such as the five ladies in this play, work far harder and for far less pay and recognition than those who heap derision upon them. Less shouting and finger-pointing, and more work by all of us—what a revolutionary concept!

REAL WOMEN HAVE CURVES
at Costa Mesa Playhouse, 661 Hamilton St., Costa Mesa, (949) 650-5269, costamesaplayhouse.com. Fri.-Sat., 8 p.m., Sun., 2 p.m. Through Oct. 1. $18-$20

TrendZilla
» AIMEE MURILLO

Crystal Your Cooch

Holistic medicine has infiltrated everything from exercise to education to doggie care, so why not our sex lives? All had crystal sex toys—massagers, plugs and other fun stuff fashioned out of polished rose quartz, amethyst, black opal, obsidian and other spiritual-energy material. Ancient Chinese culture popularized the idea of sacred rocks entering orifices for health purposes with Yoni eggs, but crystal sex toys also promise spiritual and mental clarity ... with sexual release!

Design-wise, crystal sex toys are already better than your state-of-the-art vibrator: They're all natural and easy to clean. There's no need for batteries, and if you accidentally leave it for guests to see, they'll think it's a Jeff Koons work. Much as with crystals used to meditate, there's an activation process for the toys: gently wash with warm water and sea salt to clear it of previous unwanted energy. Each crystal carries its own metaphysical properties and uses, but it's up to *you* to set specific intentions with your play.

It all sounds like hippy-dippy GOOP shit, right? If you're open-minded enough, there are some big positives to aligning your arousal with mindful practice. Rubbing one off with a crystal sex toy is said to improve self-awareness, relieve stress and remove emotional blocks from past sexual trauma or relationships. Vanessa Cuccio, founder of Chakrubs, the leading crystal-energy sex-toy company, told Refinery29: "There are thousands of stories about crystals, each one special, and all with a purpose of relieving us of any emotional, spiritual, or physical pain."

Crystal sex toys haven't yet become regular inventory at your local ConRev, but you can check them out at Entice Me (*200 Elm Ave., Ste. 13, Long Beach, 714-386-9864, www.enticeme.co*) or find them online, including at Chakrubs (*www.chakrubs.com*). You're welcome!

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Desert Stars Still Shines

Looking back at the moments that defined this DiY shoegaze celebration

BY NATE JACKSON

GAZING AT THE DANDY WARHOLS

STEVE NICOLAI

When we someday look back on the era that birthed the endless explosion of festivals, we doubt many of them will stand the test of time in our carefully calculated culture of cool. These days, we hardly bat an eye at fests that carry dozens of the same acts, a format that vies for the same audience, repeating the cookie-cutter version of what used to be a sacred rite of passage. Things were much different for Tommy Dietrick when he threw the first Desert Stars in 2007 with the mission of becoming the first boutique DIY festival catering to psychedelic rock and shoegaze. A decade later, he's proud to say not too much has changed.

"When we started, there were very few niche micro events happening, and we built it organically, and it's still that way," he says. "It still feels like a family event—that community and intimacy that either goes away as you get bigger or gets lost if you're not careful with it."

Part of that intimacy has always revolved around the level of care and curation that goes into the lineup, with acts that normally play for much larger audiences finding themselves cozied up under the desert sky with about 700 of their closest friends and diehard fans. "There's no light pollution or sound pollution, you're immersed in this alternate world," Dietrick says. "I don't know anywhere else you can have that experience.

When you're outside, and your feet are in the desert sand, and you're looking up at the brightest stars you've ever seen, it puts you in a different place—and Pappy & Harriet's [Pioneertown Palace, which hosts the fest] creates that magic."

In honor of its 10th year, Dietrick noted some of the live-music moments that have helped Desert Stars shine over the years.

Tha Entranca Band (2007) "The energy and talent that effortlessly pours from Guy Blakeslee and Paz Lenchantin [now bassist for the Pixies] is palpable. I've seen each member solo and been completely blown away. Entrance was our headliner back in 2007. Explosive and energetic, they really know how to perform. They know how to excite an audience and carry the crowd. I remember that first year vividly, and I think it's fitting that they are returning on our 10th anniversary this year! Don't miss them on our opening night on Sept. 22!"

David J of Bauhaus/Love & Rockets (2013) "As a big fan of David's musical projects, I was ecstatic when I rang him up to see if he'd consider coming out to play the festival in 2013, and that he said yes. David is a true artist who continues to evolve. He writes books, plays, seeks out new ways to express his songwriting—and he put on an epic set at our event in 2013. That year almost did not happen when a flash flood soaked our stages barely an hour before doors opened. Luckily for us, the rain stopped, and the desert soaked up the water in a few short hours. I'll never forget that one!"

Mark Gardanar of Ride (2011) "Long before the reunion of iconic shoegaze band Ride, Mark Gardener came out to perform a very special set for us. We surprised folks when, in the middle of his set, he asked my band Sky Parade to join him onstage and play some classic Ride songs like 'Leave Them All Behind,' 'Twisterella' and, of course, the anthemic shoegazer classic 'Vapour Trail.' We even had Joel Gion, the famous tambourine man of Brian Jonestown Massacre, join in! The performance went over so well that Mark asked us to tour the 20-year anniversary of Ride's classic 'Going Blank Again' in 2012 as his backing band."

Tha Dandy Warhols (2014) "Truly, there may never have been a lasting Desert Stars Festival without the support of our longtime friends the Dandy Warhols. As a smaller-scale event, the bands basically have to want to play. On their second performance for us in 2014, I was reminded again just why this band have thrived for more than two decades. There is something about their sound in particular out in the desert that works so incredibly well. The band are always hypnotic, and this set was particularly mesmerizing. Their sound is so complimentary to the desert atmosphere outside at Pappy & Harriet's."

Alex Maas (of tha Black Angels) performing solo (2014) "Alex has been a longtime friend and supporter of Desert Stars. I've seen the Black Angels countless times, but there is something really special about his solo performances. He has performed with us both with his full band as well as two separate solo performances. My favorite solo set of his was at our event in 2014 on the intimate indoor stage at Pappy's. He came on at midnight to a packed house, with folks gathering at all the doors and windows to hear his unique voice. You could hear a pin drop. I actually heard tears from the crowd. He told me once that show was one of the best he'd ever performed."

Black Rebel Motorcycle Club (2008) "During my brief tenure as bassist for [the Brian Jonestown Massacre], I had the chance to share the road with Black Rebel Motorcycle Club, playing throughout the U.K. on one of the band's biggest headlining tours. I was quickly grabbed by the intensity of [Robert Levon Been] and [Peter Hayes] and Rob's father, Michael Been. On a whim, I reached out to them and asked them if they'd come perform at the festival. I knew our little festival could never afford them, but I thought, well, it couldn't hurt to ask, right? They said yes and opted to forgo a big production with lights and smoke, and instead performed a stellar stripped-down acoustic show for us just before the Black Angels performed on the same stage that year. Anyone who recalls that year knows just how special their set was. It was another of these times that I just couldn't believe it actually happened."

Robby Kriegar of the Doors (2009) "My father was a huge fan of the Doors, and I grew up listening to them and drinking coffee way too young while we blasted their songs from a little 1980s Toyota Tercel on the streets of San Jose. I still pinch myself that for a brief moment in time when the universe opened up and I found myself playing onstage with this iconic figure. We had met while working on a recording project together in Los Angeles, and much to my welcome surprise, he asked me to join the band. We called the band TREEHOUSE because Robby has a giant geodesic dome at his house. That night at the festival, we performed both classic Doors songs and a handful of songs that we had all worked on together. I reached out to Robby a few days ago, and he told me it was a magical show and a night that he still recalls fondly. I continue to be astonished by how down-to-earth and gracious he is. There have been recent talks of performing again. Who knows? Maybe we'll do it again!"

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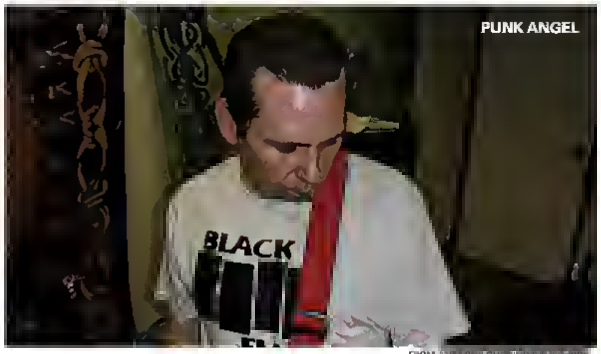

FROM ANTHONY GUARINO'S FACEBOOK

Heaven's Heathen

R.I.P., Anthony Guarino: badass punker, boss musician, even better friend

BY RYAN RITCHIE

As a lifelong proponent of waking no earlier than 10 a.m., I've realized that a phone call or text at 8 a.m. is never a good sign. Last Thursday, I was reminded of this theory when my friend Viktor texted to inform me that another friend, Anthony Guarino, had passed away.

I knew Guarino as the drummer of the Heathens (a band we founded with guitarist Al "Alfunction" James and singer/guitarist Gabe Griffin), but I had known of him for years prior to that. Before playing in the Heathens, Griffin and I played in Spitfirevolver, a Jawbreaker-esque trio that no one seemed to like. No one, that is, except for Guarino and his band the Iron-Ons. Spitfirevolver first played with the Iron-Ons at a Costa Mesa art gallery around 1998 or 1999. When I say we played to four people that night, I mean four people: my then-girlfriend Jennifer and the three members of the Iron-Ons.

I was nervous that evening because I had been a bass player for such a short amount of time that I had yet to purchase an amp and a head. Then, I became more nervous when I noticed Guarino, who was wearing a jacket with a Descendents logo on it. If you've heard any Descendents music, you know the band's three bass players (Tony Lombardo, Doug Carrion and Karl Alvarez) can play. And if you're an underage, recent guitarist-turned-bassist playing with a well-known local group that's into the Descendents, you know you aren't allowed to suck.

My performance must have passed the test because, years later, Guarino and I would play together in the Heathens. We instantly clicked as a rhythm section. To say that every drummer is different is a cliché. Of course every drummer is unique, but Guarino truly was, and if there's one thing I'll never forget about him, it's that no one played drums like Guarino. NO ONE. His right hand, the one that transforms a boring, sloppy punk band into something special, was unlike any I'd ever play with. Guarino's performances always popped. Even during a spastic, downstroke-until-you-die part of a song, Guarino grooved. He wasn't, as musicians say, "in the pocket." He was the pocket.

Whether it was his playing in Corrupted Ideals, Violent Outrage, the Iron-Ons, Final Conflict, Dodge Dart or the Heathens (and probably a bunch more), Guarino's feel for punk was his musical forte. The guy played energetic, guitar-driven rock & roll as easily as he breathed. I was in constant awe of not only his playing, but also the way in which he understood music.

Guarino and I played together for approximately two years, but I have so many memories of being his bass player. The original batch of Heathens material was maybe 10 songs, and of those 10, I had written only one complete tune. As the band grew, my song slowly became eliminated from the set, but not because of Guarino. Often, he told me it was his favorite song to play, and every time we ended our set, he would say something like, "What about 'Left for Dead?'" Guarino championed my song and pushed the group to learn more of my material. His belief in me—a guy who lacked self-confidence as a bassist, songwriter and person—was something I'll never forget.

I'm going to miss Guarino the drummer and, more importantly, the friend. I don't know if there's a heaven, but I can tell you this. If there is, the Ramones are playing, and Guarino is bopping and bouncing right in front of Joey with a smile on his face. And when I get to the big show in the sky and hear Dee Dee count off every song with "1, 2, 3, 4," I know Guarino will be saving me a spot in the front row.

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Gong Strong

Calling FlashPants a 1980s dance party cover band is a bit of an understatement. If you want to get technical, FlashPants are an organization of four separate 80s dance party cover bands (composed of four people each), all committed to giving crowds at venues, weddings and other events of all shapes and sizes the same unbelievable live performances that have endeared them to people across the country. But for the group's leader, Graysen Hamwel, FlashPants are really all about having fun and giving people an escape from reality.

"We refer to ourselves as an interactive comedy show which is performed by professional seasoned musicians," Hamwel says. "The nature of the show isn't about the music, it's about the connection and the fun between the band and the audience. If you want to go listen to a band, there are lots of great musicians in Southern California. But if you're looking for a more interactive fun experience, that's what FlashPants are. We're all in this sandbox called life, and it can be a rough ride where we're stuck dealing with the sandy turds left by the dog, or we can be goofing around and having it all come together and make sense for the short time when we're all together."

Recently, the most hired band in California took things to the next level when they dominated the season finale of the reboot of *The Gong Show* on ABC (featuring a bizarre-looking Mike Myers in prosthetics). But for as much of an opportunity as network television would seem for most 80s cover bands, FlashPants turned it down at first. Not only did they not see it as particularly necessary for their brand, but it also seemed to be a gamble for a group that haven't had an issue booking gigs.

"When *The Gong Show* called me, I told them that we weren't really interested because FlashPants were a very functional working act and I didn't see why we'd want to be on a show where the unit of measurement is 'Did you fail or not?'" Hamwel recalls. "They kept calling us until we finally agreed to do it because they said they weren't going to shame us in any way, and they totally kept their end of the bargain.

"They put every act in a spot where they could shine as brightly as they could, but it was still nerve-wracking because you have 3 million viewers judging you over the course of a few minutes," Hamwel continues. "That's a lot of people, and it's kind of an all-or-nothing kind of thing. What if I'd gone on that show and had a poop stain on my shorts? Instead of being the guy in FlashPants, I'd be the guy with the poop stain."

This stint on national television is described by Hamwel as both exciting and terrifying, not unlike a roller coaster or skydiving. Of course, the perfect score no doubt made it a more enjoyable experience for everyone involved, but the guys in FlashPants were really just doing what comes naturally to them. *The Gong Show* allowed them to explain to the world what their fans and employers already know: FlashPants are all about the energy and fun of their shows, no matter what genre of music they're taking on.

"FlashPants will certainly evolve as the audience's requests evolve, but right now, we do almost exclusively 80s dance music because it's the most ridiculous and fun genre of music," Hamwel says. "There's no reason why we wouldn't switch to '90s or country or anything like that as long as we can have fun and connect with an audience while continuing to make a full-time living. We're not particular about the kind of music that we play; we're just particular about the experience that people seeing us have."

LocalsOnly
» JOSH CHESLER

Hey, Orange County/Long Beach musicians and bands! Mail your music, contact info, high-res photos and impending show dates for possible review to Locals Only, *OC Weekly*, 18475 Bandilier Circle, Fountain Valley, CA 92708. Or email your link to localsonly@ocweekly.com.

THIS WEEK

FRIDAY

AN EVENING WITH RICHARD MARX. part of the Bank of the West Summer Concert Series. 6-10 p.m., $65-$110. series.hyattconcerts.com. Hyatt Regency Newport Beach, 1107 Jamboree Rd., Newport Beach, (949) 729-1234. newportbeach.hyatt.com.

FREQUENCY FRIDAYS. 10:30 p.m., free. Brussels Bistro, 222 Forest Ave., Laguna Beach, (949) 376-7955, brusselsbistro.com.

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE MUSIC AT THE DEN. 9 p.m., free. The Gypsy Den, 125 N. Broadway Ave., Santa Ana, (714) 835-8840, gypsyden.com.

LIVE JAZZ AND R&B. 7 p.m., free. The Durban Room at Mozambique, 1740 S. Coast Hwy., Laguna Beach, (949) 715-7777, mozambiquenoc.com.

PROOF BAR RESIDENT DJS. 9 p.m., free. Proof Bar, 215 N. Broadway, Santa Ana, (714) 953-2680, proofbar.com.

RELEASE THE BATS. 9 p.m., $5. Que Sera, 1923 E. Seventh St., Long Beach, (562) 599-6170, queseralb.wix.com.

RITUAL. EDM DJs, 9 p.m., free. Kitsch Bar, 881 Baker St., Ste. A10, Costa Mesa, (714) 546-8580, kitschbar.com.

RON KOBAYASHI. 10 p.m., free. Bayside Restaurant, 900 Bayside Dr., Newport Beach, (949) 721-1222, baysidenrestaurant.com.

SEGA GENECIDE. 10 p.m., free. La Cave, 1695 Irvine Ave., Costa Mesa, (949) 646-7944, lacaverestaurant.com.

SMASH FRIDAYS. 9 p.m., free. The Continental Room, 115 W. Santa Fe Ave., Fullerton, (714) 469-1879, facebook.com/ContinentalRoom.

SATURDAY

EPIC SATURDAYS. 9:30 p.m., free. The Continental Room, 115 W. Santa Fe Ave., Fullerton, (714) 469-1879, facebook.com/ContinentalRoom.

GASLAMP UNPLUGGED 2. 7:30 p.m., $10. Gaslamp Restaurant & Bar, 6251 E. Pacific Coast Hwy., Long Beach, (562) 596-4718, thegaslamprestaurant.com.

HIP-HOP HOORAY. 9 p.m., free. Kitsch Bar, 881 Baker St., Ste. A10, Costa Mesa, (714) 546-8580, kitschbar.com.

JANET JACKSON. 8 p.m., $29-$649. Honda Center, 2695 E. Katella Ave., Anaheim, (714) 704-2400, hondacenter.com.

LIVE JAZZ AND R&B. 7 p.m., free. The Durban Room at Mozambique, 1740 S. Coast Hwy., Laguna Beach, (949) 715-7777, mozambiquenoc.com.

PAT BOONE. 8 p.m., $49.50. The Coach House, 33157 Camino Capistrano, Ste. C, San Juan Capistrano, (949) 496-1930, thecoachhouse.com.

PROOF BAR RESIDENT DJS. 9 p.m., free. Proof Bar, 215 N. Broadway, Santa Ana, (714) 953-2680, proofbar.com.

STEREO SATURDAYS. 10:30 p.m., free. Brussels Bistro, 222 Forest Ave., Laguna Beach, (949) 376-7955, brusselsbistro.com.

TWO DOOR CINEMA CLUB. 7 p.m., $80. House of Blues at Anaheim GardenWalk, 400 W. Disney Way, Ste. 337, Anaheim, (714) 778-2583, houseofblues.com/anaheim.

SUNDAY

APOLLO REBOP BOTTOMLESS BRUNCH. 9 a.m., free. The Gypsy Den, 125 N. Broadway Ave., Santa Ana, (714) 835-8840, gypsyden.com.

CITIZENS & SAINTS. Aftan presents the In Part Tour, 7 p.m., $20-$35. Chain Reaction, 1652 W. Lincoln Ave., Anaheim, (714) 635-6067, allages.com.

EXPANDING DC HIP-HOP. 8 p.m., free. Grill Hut, 107 S. Adams St., Anaheim, (714) 533-1286.

FULLY FULLWOOD REGGAE SUNDAYS. 3 p.m., $5. Den the Beachcomber, 16278 Pacific Coast Hwy., Huntington Beach, (562) 592-1321, denthebeachcomber.com.

94.7 THE WAVE BRUNCH. 11 a.m., $25. Spaghettini Restaurant & Grill, 3006 Old Ranch Pkwy., Seal Beach, (562) 596-2199, spaghettini.com.

SUNDAY BLUES. 4 p.m., free. Malarkey's Grill & Irish Pub, 168 N. Marina Dr., Long Beach, (562) 598-9431.

MONDAY

COUNTRY DANCIN' WITH DJ PATRICK. 6:30 p.m., free. The Swallow's Inn, 31786 Camino Capistrano, San Juan Capistrano, (949) 493-3188, swallowsinn.com.

DJ TORDERRDS. 10 p.m., free. Kitsch Bar, 881 Baker St., Ste. A10, Costa Mesa, (714) 546-8580, kitschbar.com.

OOUG LACY ON THE PIANO. 6 p.m., free. Ralph Brennan's Jazz Kitchen, 1590 S. Disneyland Dr., Anaheim, (714) 776-5200, rbjazzkitchen.com.

KABOOM DRAG SHOW. 9 p.m., free. Que Sera, 1923 E. Seventh St., Long Beach, (562) 599-6170, queseralb.wix.com.

TUESDAY

OLD SCHOOL HIP-HOP/R&B NIGHT. 7 p.m., free. Pie Sneaky, 353 E. 17th St., Costa Mesa, (949) 313-6335, piesneakybar.com.

WEDNESDAY

DEREK RORDEAUX BAND. 8 p.m., free. Original Mike's, 100 S. Main St., Santa Ana, (714) 550-7764, originalmikes.com.

ENCORE. presented by Manifest Recordings, 8 p.m., $5. Que Sera, 1923 E. Seventh St., Long Beach, (562) 599-6170, queseralb.wix.com.

KITSCH OUT THE JAMS. 9 p.m., free. Kitsch Bar, 881 Baker St., Ste. A10, Costa Mesa, (714) 546-8580, kitschbar.com.

MAGIC OICK & SHUN NG. 8 p.m., $15-$35. Den the Beachcomber, 16278 Pacific Coast Hwy., Huntington Beach, (562) 592-1321, denthebeachcomber.com.

MODERN DISCO AMBASSADORS. 10 p.m., $5. La Cave, 1695 Irvine Ave., Costa Mesa, (949) 646-7944, lacaverestaurant.com.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 28

BACK CATALOG. 9 p.m., free. Kitsch Bar, 881 Baker St., Ste. A10, Costa Mesa, (714) 546-8580, kitschbar.com.

OOUG LACY ON THE PIANO. 6 p.m., free. Ralph Brennan's Jazz Kitchen, 1590 S. Disneyland Dr., Anaheim, (714) 776-5200, rbjazzkitchen.com.

LIVE JAZZ AND R&B. 7 p.m., free. The Durban Room at Mozambique, 1740 S. Coast Hwy., Laguna Beach, (949) 715-7777, mozambiquenoc.com.

REGGAE THURSDAYS. 9 p.m., $5. Que Sera, 1923 E. Seventh St., Long Beach, (562) 599-6170, queseralb.wix.com.

SPONGE. 8 p.m., $15. The Coach House, 33157 Camino Capistrano, Ste. C, San Juan Capistrano, (949) 496-1930, thecoachhouse.com.

STRICTLY COUNTRY THURSDAYS. 8 p.m., free before 8 p.m., $5 after. Gaslamp Restaurant & Bar, 6251 E. Pacific Coast Hwy., Long Beach, (562) 596-4718, thegaslamprestaurant.com.

UPCOMING

SEPTEMBER

BOYCE AVENUE. Sept. 29. House of Blues at Anaheim GardenWalk.

FOUR YEAR STRONG. Sept. 29-30. Chain Reaction.

MISTERWIVES. Sept. 30. The Observatory.

OCTOBER

YOUNG THE GIANT. Oct. 5. Five Point Amphitheater.

J BALVIN. Oct. 8. The Observatory.

JUMPING JACK FLASH'S STONES & STEWART SHOW. Oct. 6. The Coach House.

RIR EMMETT. Oct. 8. The Coach House.

LORDS OF ACID, COMBICHRIST, CHRISTIAN DEATH, EN ESCH, NIGHT CLUB. Oct. 11. Constellation Room at the Observatory.

BRIAN WILSON PRESENTS PET SOUNDS—THE FINAL PERFORMANCES. Oct. 14. Pacific Amphitheatre.

ROKTOBERFEST 2017. Oct. 14. Gaslamp Restaurant & Bar.

JOSH GARRELS. Oct. 15. House of Blues at Anaheim GardenWalk.

DINOSAUR JR. Oct. 18. The Observatory.

HAEMIL. Oct. 19. Muckenthaler Cultural Center.

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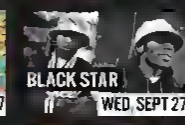

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Dicks Deluxe

I'm a 35-year-old straight guy. I met a nice lady through the normal methods, and we hit it off and have grown closer. I think we are both considering "taking it to the next level." We are on the same intellectual wavelength, enjoy the same social experiences and have a lot of fun together. So what could be the problem? My friend decided it was the time to inform me that she is transgender, pre-op, and will not be having gender-reassignment surgery. This was quite a shock to me. I'm not homophobic, though I've never had a gay experience. I'm open-minded, yet there is a mental block. I like this person, I like our relationship thus far, and I want to continue this relationship. But I'm in a state of confusion.

Confused Over Complicating Knowledge

Lemme get this out of the way first, COCK. The nice lady isn't a man, so sex with her wouldn't be a "gay experience," and homophobia isn't the relevant term.

Moving on.

You're a straight guy you're attracted to women, and some women—as you now know—have dicks. Are you into dick? Could you develop a taste for dick? Could you see yourself making an exception for her dick? It's fine if "no" is the answer to one or all of these questions, COCK, and not being into dick doesn't make you transphobic. Evan Urquhart, who writes about trans issues for *Slate*, argues that in addition to being gay, straight, bi, pan, demi, etc., some people are philophiles and some are vaginophiles—that is, some people (perhaps most) have a strong preference for either partners with dicks or partners with vaginas. And some people—most people—want their dicks on men and their labia on/vaginas in women.

"There's no shame in it, as long as it doesn't come from a place of ignorance or hate," Urquhart writes. "Mature adults should be able to talk plainly about their sexuality, particularly with prospective partners, in a way that doesn't objectify or shame anyone who happens to be packing the non-preferred equipment."

Some straight guys are really into dick (trans women with male partners usually aren't partnered with gay men, and trans women who do sex work typically don't have any gay male clients)—some straight guys are willing to make an exception for a particular dick (after falling in love with a woman who has one), but most straight guys aren't into dick (other than their own).

Since you're confused about what to do, COCK, I would encourage you to continue dating this woman, keep an open mind and keep taking things slow. You've got new information to process, and some things—or one thing—to think about before taking this relationship to the next level. But don't drag it out. If you conclude that the dick is a deal breaker, end this relationship with compassion and sincerity. You don't want to keep seeing her "to be nice" if you know a relationship isn't possible. Because letting someone live in false hope is always a dick move.

A few months ago, I started dating someone. I made it clear early on that I didn't feel comfortable being in a nonmonogamous relationship. They said that's not usually what they're into, but they weren't interested in seeing anyone else and they had no problem being monogamous. It's not that I don't trust them, and they've never given any indication they're unhappy with our arrangement, but I can't shake the fears that, though they won't admit it (maybe even to themselves), they'd prefer it if our relationship were more open, and I'm taking something important away from them. Can someone who usually doesn't "do" monogamy feel fulfilled in a "closed" relationship? Can it work out, or will they just slowly grow to resent me for this?

Deliriously Anxious Monogamist Nervously Inquires Today

If you stay together forever—what most people mean by "work out"—your partner will definitely grow to resent you. It could be for this reason, DAMNIT, or for some other reason, but all people in long-term relationships resent their partners for *something*. So if monogamy is the price of admission this person is willing to pay, let them pay it. There are a lot of people out there in closed relationships who would rather be in open ones and vice versa. And remember: What works for you as a couple—and what you want as an individual—can change over time.

My relationship with my husband is bad. We have been together for 12 years, and we were married for eight years before getting divorced last year. We have small kids. We reconciled four months after the divorce, despite the affair I had. I have a history of self-sabotage, but in my relationship with him, it has become near constant. Everyone thinks I'm a smart and kind person that occasionally makes mistakes, but I'm not that person with him. With him, I'm awful. I make promises I don't keep, and I don't do the right things to make him feel loved even though I do loving things. We have been in couples therapy a number of times, but I always derail the process. I have been in therapy solo a number of times with similar results. I always get the therapists on my side, and no real change happens. I want to change, but I haven't. I want to stop hurting him, but I keep doing it. He doesn't feel like I have ever really fought for him or the relationship. Why can't I change?

My Enraging Self-Sabotaging Yearnings

It's unlikely I'll be able to do for you in print what three couples counselors and all those therapists couldn't do for you in person, i.e., help you change your ways—if, indeed, it's your ways that require changing. Have you ever entertained the thought that maybe there's a reason every counselor or therapist you see winds up taking your side? Is it possible that you're not the problem? Are you truly awful, MESSY, or has your husband convinced you that you're awful in order to have the upper hand in your relationship? (Yeah, yeah, you had an affair. Lots of people do, and lots of marriages survive them.)

If you're not being manipulated—if you're not the victim of an expert gaslighter—and you're awful and all your efforts to change have been in vain, MESSY, perhaps you should stop trying. You are who you are, your husband knows who you are, and if he wants to be with you as awful as you are (or as awful as he's managed to convince you that you are)—that's his choice and he needs to take some responsibility for it. By "stop trying," I don't mean you should stop making an effort to be a better person or a more loving partner—we should all constantly strive to be better people and more loving partners—but you can't spend the rest of your life on a therapist's couch. Or the rack.

If you truly make your husband miserable, he should leave you. If your marriage makes you miserable (or if he does), you should leave him. But if neither of you is going anywhere, MESSY, then you'll both just have to make the best of your messy selves and your messy marriage.

On the Lovecast *(savagelovecast.com), Dan chats with* Slate *writer Mark Joseph Stern about left-wing anti-Semitism. Contact Dan via email at mail@savagelove.net, follow him on Twitter (@fakedansavage), and visit ITMFA.org.*

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Toke of the Week

» MARY CARREON

Breez's Medicated Mints

COURTESY OF BREEZE MINTS

As I was checking in at the Emerald Exchange press room last month, three large bowls holding piles of Breez's Medicated Mints tins caught my eye. The small, rectangular tins were divided by color: red, white and blue—how patriotic! The mints in the blue tin contained 25 milligrams of THC, while the mints in the red tin offered a 1:1 ratio of 25 milligrams of THC to 25 milligrams of CBD. The mints in the white tin had the highest dose of THC, landing at 20 milligrams.

Knowing the Emerald Exchange was held on a sprawling estate loaded with tons of people to talk to, being an anti-social zombie wasn't an option. So I opted for the red tin. All five round mints were gone within 10 minutes. I'd ingested them fast. They tasted like spicy cinnamon delights without the faintest trace of cannabis. I normally don't eat mints like that, but that day I did—and it was intense. Do not underestimate the power of an aspirin-sized mint.

While shuttling to the Moorpark estate—which was about 45 minutes away from the check-in point—I was as fit as a birthday cake. The shuttle ride was a bit clammy, and the anxiety was real. By the time we got to our destination, I was shockingly stoned. It felt more like 50 milligrams of THC! But I felt great. I felt like a spider from Mars blessed with the grace of a sugar plum fairy—clearly a perfect way to show up to a holistic cannabis festival. Although my adventures at the Emerald Exchange involved a lot of sitting down, the mints ensured I had a great time *and* good breath.

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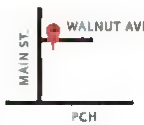

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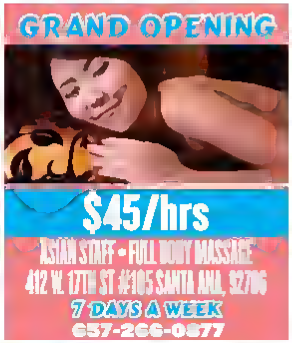

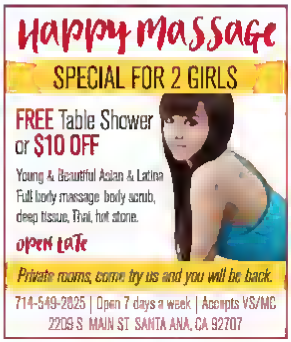
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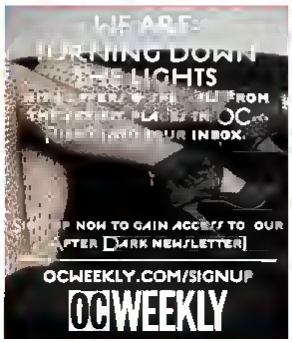

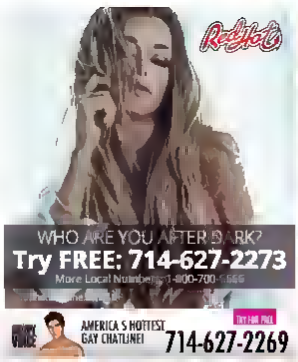

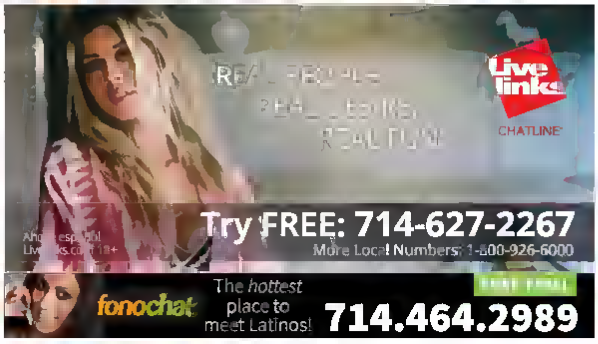

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Arrange PR plan to promote co image & services. Req'd: BA in Comm., Journ., or English. Mail resume: Sobem International Inc. 6481 Oliangethorpe Ave #22 Buena Park, CA 90620.

Acupuncturist. Apply by mail only to Rio Medical Center Inc. 520 N. Brookhurst St. #147 Anaheim CA 92801 attn President.

IT Project Manager (Tustin, CA) Plan, initiate, and manage information technology projects. Bachelor's in Computer/Electronics Engineering related. Resume to: Woongjin Inc. 335 Centennial Way #200 Tustin, CA 92780

Acupuncturist (Anaheim CA) Diagnose patient's cond bsn based on symptoms & medical history to formulate effective oriental medicine treat plans; Insert very fine needles into acupuncture points on body surface and maintain related care. Apply herbal treatment, acupressure & other therapy for patient's specific needs such as back, neck, shoulder knee pains, headaches, etc. 40hrs/wk. Master's in Acupuncture or Oriental Medicine. Acupuncturist License in CA Req'd. Resume to: Unity Acupuncture Health Clinic Attn: In Chul Song, 5537 E Santa Ana Canyon Rd Anaheim CA 92807

National Sales Director in Newport Beach, CA. Occasional travel within U.S. 1 or 2 times per mo. Please apply in writing to: Black & Peach Retail, LLC Attn: Luis Sandoval (#NSDR117) 500 Newport Center Drive, Suite 320 Newport Beach CA 92660

Employment

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Transportation Designer (San Clemente, CA) Develop, design and evaluate automotive products and design concepts. Bachelor's in Transportation Design. Resume to: Ideation Creation Group Inc. 1007 Calle Sombra, San Clemente, CA 92675

Park Advertising
Interested candidates send resume to : Google Inc. PO Box 26184 San Francisco CA 94126 Attn: A. Johnson Please reference job # below

Software Engineer (Irvine, CA) Design, develop, modify, &/or test software needed for various Google projects (#1615, 3055) Exp. incl: C, C++, Java, or Python; object oriented programming and design; debugging; SQL, algorithms; Linux and Unix; and APIs

Religious Education Director (Anaheim, CA) Plan, direct and coordinate church education programs and activities. Master's in Education req'd. Resume to: Purely Evangelical Church 2101 W Crescent Ave #F Anaheim, CA 92801

Pastor. Conduct religious worship & deliver sermons. Master's Degree in Theology, Christian Education, or related req'd. Orange Korean Church, Abraham Reformed...645 W. Malvern Ave. Fullerton, CA 92832

RF Engineer Costa Mesa CA Mobilkia Mgmt, LLC. RF design & optimization of LTE Macro, Small Cells, CDMA & LTE networks. requires MA in Elec Eng, familiarity w/RF design, Wind Catcher Actix Analyzer and TEMS. Send resume to: lara@mobilrae.com

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Operations Research Analyst: Research/ analyze/devise methods to maximize operat'l effi ciency. MBA req'd. Send resume to Solomon America, Inc. 17151 Newhope St. #201 Fountain Valley, CA 92708

Employment

195 Position Wanted

Simulation Engineer
3 yrs wk exp req'd. Send resumes to: Eon Reality, Inc. 39 Parker Irvine, CA 92618 Attn: M. Johansson

PCB Design Engr (Job code: PDE-58) Design & layout complex, multi layer PCBs using Allium 16. Reqs: BS+2yrs exp. Mail resumes to Boundary Devices, Attn: UR 21072 Bake Pkwy Ste 100 Lake Forest, CA 92630 Must ref job title & code.

Sr SAP MM Consultant, MS Dsg in CS, IT, MS or related & 5 yr exp. Exp. in Supply Chain Optimization. Skills: SAP MM, Tableau Reporting & Analysis, VBA, SQL, MS Visio. Six Sigma Methodology. Travel &/or relocthroughout the US req'd. Mail resume to Morris & Willner Partners, Inc. 201 Sandpointe Ave. Ste. 200 Santa Ana, CA, 92707

Restaurant General Mgr. Responsible for managing overall day to-day operation & supervision of entire staff, ensure high level of customer satisfaction, etc. Req: BS in Hospitality Mgmt; must have taken "Hospitality Mktg Mgmt" and "Hospitality Industry Managenal Accounting" courses. Send resume to Two Two Fred Chicken Inc. Attn: James Ha 17017 E. Gel Amo Blvd Carson, CA 90746

MVP Technologies LLC seeks SAP BW/4 Consultant (MVPSAP17) with Master's Yr/ Bachelor's +5yrs exp/equiv. SAP BW/4 ABAP, BEX, HANA. Mail resumes to Hir 3277 Research Drive, Irvine, CA 92618 Travel to unanticipated work sites throughout U.S. Foreign equiv. accepted

Systems Analyst: Apply by mail only to MotorOne Inc. 111 Oasis Irvine, CA 92620, attn. President.

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Employment

195 Position Wanted

Zhang & Yan Law Offices Business Analyst, Irvine, CA. This position requires 70% domestic travel to clients locations across the US. Travel reimbursement including mileage and/or airfare/hotel, etc.). Perform requirements gathering, GAP analysis to map customer's requirements to Salesforce. Document future state business process. Email resume referencing job code #SBA to UC Innovation Inc. at jobs@ucinnovation.com

DIGITAL SURVEILLANCE DEVICES MARKET RESEARCH ANALYST
Determine method, gather data to forecast demand & trends. Examine, analyze data to develop sales & marketing strategies. Present findings using computers. Mail resume to President, Topnos Inc. 23962 Vista Terrance, Lake Forest, CA 92630

Microchip Technology seeks a Sftwr Engr (Code SE-MO) in Lake Forest, CA. Dvlp Microchip's proprietary wireless technologies & solutions. Reqs: BS+2 yrs rltd exp. Mail resume to Silicon Valley Hir, 450 Holger Way San Jose, CA 95134. Reference job title & code.

Application Engineer for Rohde & Schwarz in Irvine CA.
Using your experience with Linux, TCL/Expect, Python, SIP, RTP, IMS, LTE, UMTS, GSM, GPRS, VoLTE, CTPCV2, DIAMETER, TCP UDP, OFDMA, QXDM tool & with end to-end solution testing & development of automation framework for system & subsystem, will support customer issues, review standards 3GPP docs for tech issue resolution, develop VoLTE/WiFi test cases in TTCN-3 language & provide pre/post sales support & customer documentations. Bachelor's in Electrical & Electronics Engineering & 5 yrs of experience req'd. **Resume to Melissa.Goldman @rsa.rohde-schwarz.com. No Calls.**

Computer Systems Engineer (Tustin, CA) Design and develop operational support systems for computer systems. Bachelor's in Computer/Software Engineering related. Resume to: Woongjin Inc. 335 Centennial Way #300 Tustin, CA 92780

Group Delta Consultants Inc. in Irvine, CA seeks a Staff Engr. to communicate w/clients re: plans & changes in designs /parameters of projects. **Mail resumes referencing job title to: GDC HR 32 Mauchly Irvine, CA 92618 Principals only. EOE**

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